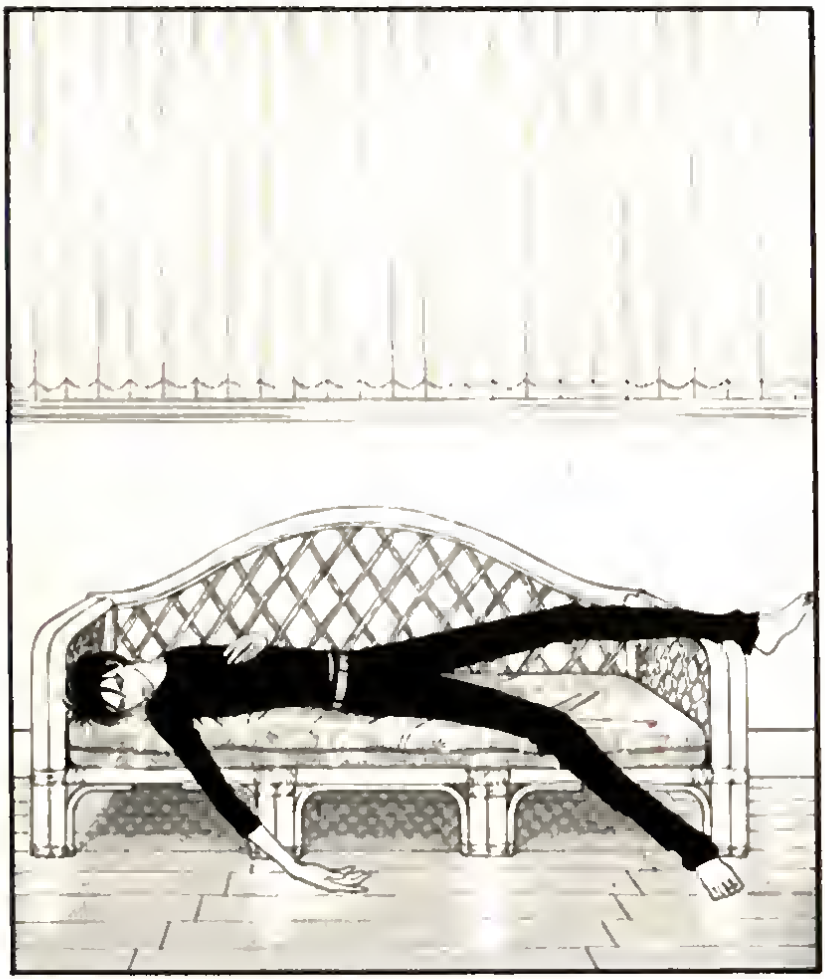
Don't forget, Koon. You will be a Keeper.

Because you live, this Ember will maintain its existence-

Because you are here, the mages will live.

So- don't forget. You can't live just for yourself alone.

Until you die, you are the keeper of this world- the protector of life.



Spell 2. Gold Blaze

I dreamt
...
I don't remember exactly what it was.
Little... by little... I can remember something
But it's unfamiliar
Right now there is nothing which is familiar to me.
Something --which seemed like natural, normal life to me,--
Now is...
Hiisa- It was you, as I thought.

I see- the bosses of Black Line are here.
Step away from the Keeper, Hisa
We will protect the Keeper
Ah- you worry too much Are you scared that I'll steal the /mark/ away from him?
How can I steal it when the /mark/ isn't there?
Hisa, if you have anything to do with the current state of the Keeper,
You will be punished by our law
Me?
That's funny. No one can tell the Keeper what to do
A power like that could not exist in somebody else, right?
Anyway, you have to go back with us and answer our questions You have to explain this situation
No matter what White Line says, you can't avoid this
.....

Hahahaha.
You, stop with your attitude-
It's too bad.
It was refreshing to experience feeling paternal love for the first time in my life
An experience like this is impossible in Ember, where nobody can conceive anymore
Hiisa,
Take your hands off of Keeper.
.....
Well... nothing can be done.
You should take him.

Keeper,
Come here.
.....
Keeper!
Push
!!
Hiisa!

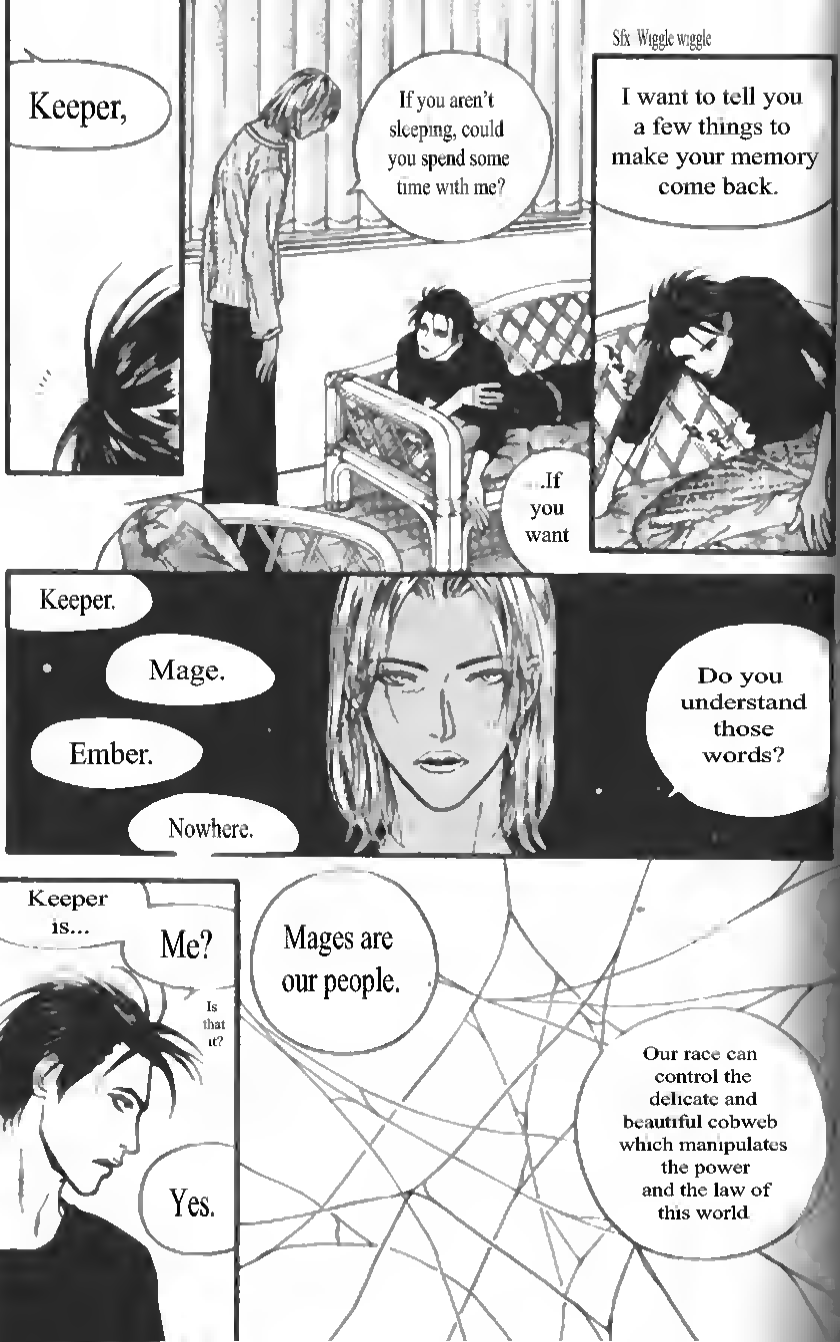
See you later, Koon.
Keeper.
Mage.
Ember.
Nowhere
...
It wasn't among the words they told me to make me remember.
Koon.
Catch him!
Koon
...
That's my name.
He was the first one who called my name.

...We lost him.
Yes...
He disappeared quickly, like a ghost
I'm sorry.
No- it's okay
We'll continue to search for him
Even if we can't search for him, he'll return to Ember someday
Right now, we should focus on making the Keeper better
But that Hiisa is really confusing.
I didn't know that he was someone like that
How did you know him?
Well... he is the only hope of White Line
They almost worship him there...
But he was doing his part well over there

Does Numan know anything about him?
Well... I don't know him personally.
I only know his face from the time that I saw him far away when he was young...
Right. .Black Line people don't know much about White Line.
They are very wary, and they don't show their hearts to Black Line.
Both groups are like that
Black clothes
?
Usually... White Line dresses in white clothes,
Like at an event-
Yes.
Sometimes- Hiisa alone was wearing black clothes.
That was noticeable... I remember that.
He is far taller than other people-
That white hair...
Those black clothes...
Hmph- he must've wanted to stand out.
Well...he could've been like that...

Well, he could've thought that black clothes were okay because his hair is white
Hahaha...
Anyway-
Let's go, Keeper.
We'll take you to our temporary shelter.
.....
I don't know who you are.
Why do I have to follow you just because you said so?

What's he saying now?
He's still despicable after all this time.
...How can we make you believe us?
Even if you don't remember, Keeper, we should protect and serve you. It's our duty to return home with you
How can we get you to trust us and come with us?
.....
Gold blaze.
If you buy me gold blaze, I'll go.
At least this big.
.....
. So that is why I'm here now.


Keeper,
If you aren't sleeping, could you spend some time with me?
Sfx Wiggle wiggle
I want to tell you a few things to make your memory come back.
..If you want
Keeper.
Mage.
Ember.
Nowhere.
Do you understand those words?
Keeper is...
Me?
Is that it?
Yes.
Mages are our people.
Our race can control the delicate and beautiful cobweb which manipulates the power and the law of this world

.....?
What are you saying?
If we find a similar word to compare it to in this world, it would be magic
And Ember is the world of mages.
And it's a world past its time to close.
.....
Close ...?
...I feel ...bad.
I want to puke.
Yes,
But because of our race's specialty, we can extend the time of that closing.
Clo...
The greatest mages sacrificed everything that they had,
So that they could get the /mark/.

The /mark/ is life.

It only exists inside life and when it's alive, Ember maintains its life

The /mark/ is death.

It opens Ember when it should be closed That is the front side of the power of the /mark/, the back side of that power is to close other worlds.

The life of this world The death of another world

Light and shadow, like the two sides of a coin

So, ultimately, the /mark/ is power.

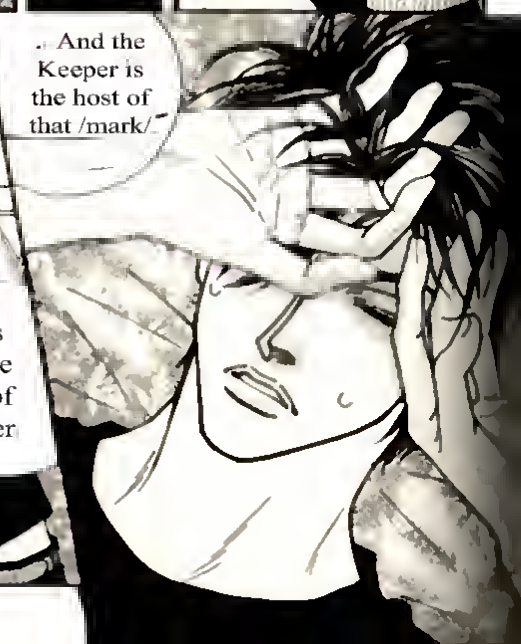
... You have heard this story many time since you were young
...Keeper?
Ugh...
Ugh-
Closing it.
Closing another world

Closer.

Another name of the Keeper

Both sides of the coin.

Light and shadow.



Do you... remember?
.....
No...but...
I don't want to remember.
I don't want to remember.
I don't find it unfamiliar anymore.
This everything- if something gets slightly twisted, it'll become my fresh memory once more.
So...
Do I have that /mark/?
Yes.
Where is it?
Right now ...it's not showing on the surface
...Are you sure that I have it?
Of course, just-
You probably aren't aware of yourself yet.
.....
You don't remember,
And I don't think you have the power now, either

Power ...?
Of course, only the most powerful mage could be the Keeper, who is the leader
You showed great power since you were young, so the last Keeper decided you would be the new Keeper,
And you received a proper education,
And when you became an adult, you received the /mark/ and became the Keeper
Do you not remember?
--What happened to the last Keeper?
The host dies without the /mark/

What is...
Black Line and all that?
I think I've heard of it before.
Ah...yes.
There are two kinds of mages in Ember
One is Black Line, and the other is White Line.
The Keeper has belonged to Black Line for several generations, and the official work of this world is done by the Black Line.
.....
Is...he...
White Line?
...Do you mean Hiisa?
Yes, he is the genius of his generation who was born from White Line.
Once...
He challenged the Keeper
Do you remember?

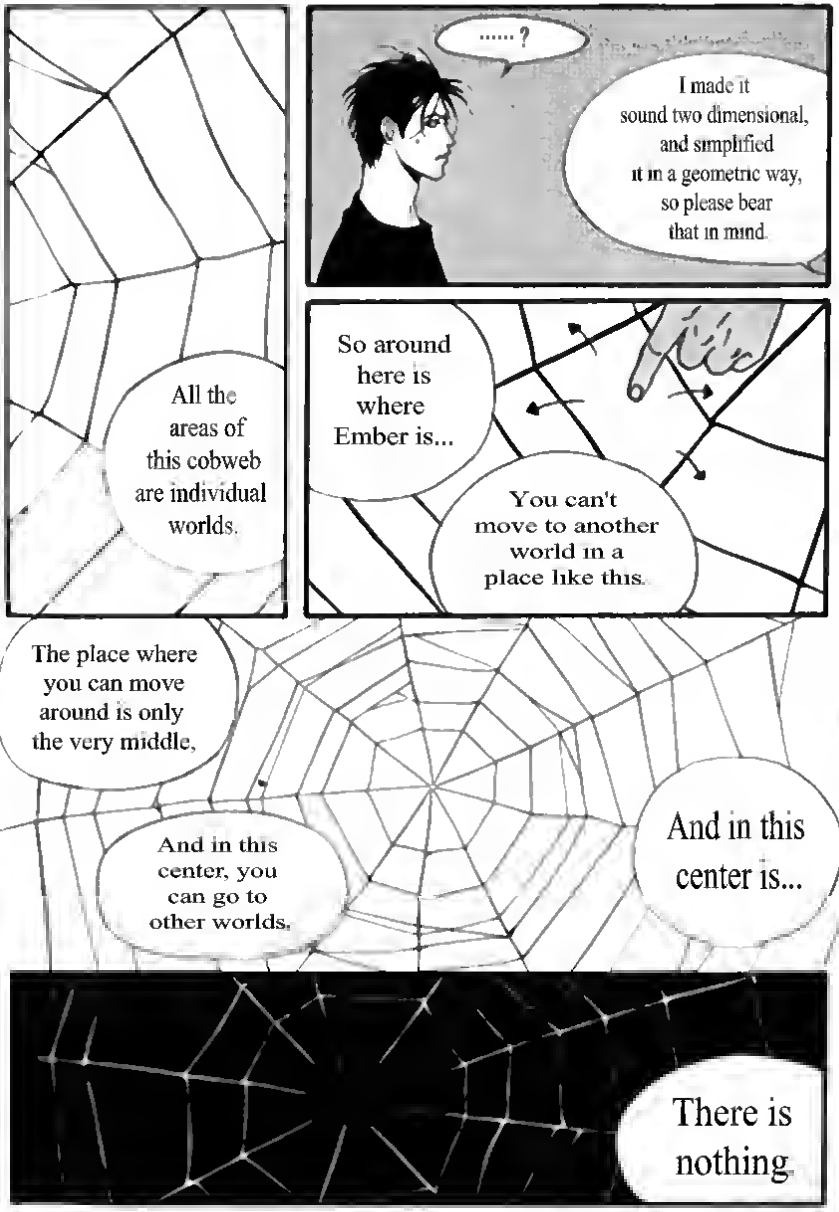
Ah
...
Yes,
Like he's enjoying it, like it's fun
That expression
It was clearly him...
Challenge
...
For what?
To be a Keeper, of course.
To take away the /mark/
If he kills me, can he become the Keeper?
What do you mean!
If the Keeper dies with the /mark/, the /mark/ will be destroyed!

...
Yes?
So?
Then-
Ember
will close!
.....
Aha...
So that's why it's important to protect you.
The Keeper's survival defense is the most powerful one, so you usually never lose your life in a challenge unless you give up trying to defend yourself
But just in case, the people who want to challenge you get educated thoroughly about the process.
... And when I give the /mark/ away, I die.
Yes.
...
It's still the same as death for me.
So the outcome of the challenge is decided while the Keeper is still alive-
When the Keeper loses the challenge, he gives the /mark/ to the challenger

Sfx:
Bang
Keeper!
What are you saying!
.....
What what, why are you angry?
Those two things are completely different!
One way is the make Ember live- and the other way is mutual destruction!
How can a Keeper say that?
Even if you don't remember!
How?!
.....
I see...

I see now,
So calm down.
.....
Sfx: Sigh
Really... you have been educated strictly since you were young.
How can you say something shocking like that even if your memory is gone?
Keeper must never say that.
Your role, your duty, your essence. Keeper is someone who can never say that
.....
I'm sorry.
By giving your /mark/ safely to the next Keeper,
Our Ember was maintained without closing until now
All mages know what the Keeper is and what he does and why he is important in the very bones of their body
But you said something like that-
This would make it difficult for the /mark/ to show now...

Sfx Sigh
She seems level-headed and calm
I didn't know that she would get so excited by this.
.....
Mm... something
...
I think I said the wrong thing about something that's very important to her
Look...
...
Yes?
What is... Nowhere?
.....
I'll try to explain it in a simple way to suit your current situation
Ah, yes
If you think about the cobweb pattern of one whole spiderweb,
It's a familiar pattern

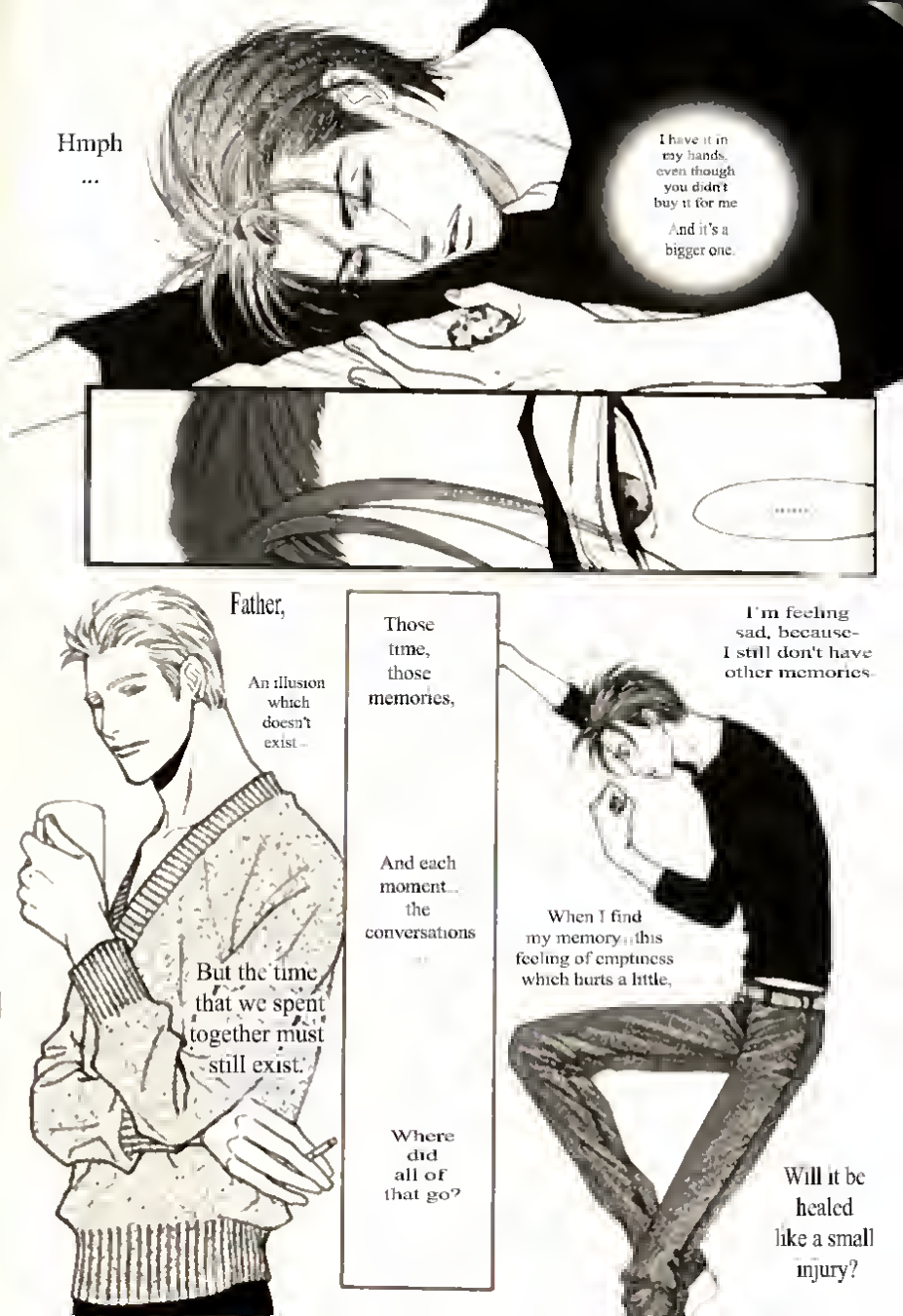

All the areas of this cobweb are individual worlds.
.....?
I made it sound two dimensional, and simplified it in a geometric way, so please bear that in mind.
So around here is where Ember is...
You can't move to another world in a place like this.
The place where you can move around is only the very middle,
And in this center, you can go to other worlds.
And in this center is...
There is nothing.

???
Mm...?
That is Nowhere.
.....
Do you mean that it's not a concept of space?
You could put it that way.
Many <worlds> exist in one dimension.
...Let's go to Nowhere.
I want to swim with you
'Swim-ming' is...
It's a way to receive Nowhere.
It's a not a way to move around?
It's a little different from the space concept
It's more correct to say that you receive it, or you feel it

So the people who can feel Nowhere, who can swim in it..
They can move into another world
Only a few mages have the power to swim.
.....
It's complicated.
That's how mages do this..
There are other ways?
Other race who sees the universe like mages do...
They would use a different way.
.....
Click

Numan-
I'm back.
Yenta came back.
.....
?
Grab
Rustle
Rustle
Is this the right one?

Yeah
Then it's good
Don't change your mind later
Hm ...
How did you get such a big one?
Don't ask, Numan.
Just bear in mind that it was a confusing experience
It's warm...
.....


Hmph
...
I have it in my hands, even though you didn't buy it for me
And it's a bigger one.
.....
Father,
An illusion which doesn't exist –
But the time that we spent together must still exist.
Those time, those memories,
And each moment... the conversations
Where did all of that go?
I'm feeling sad, because- I still don't have other memories.
When I find my memory... this feeling of emptiness which hurts a little,
Will it be healed like a small injury?

Swim
...
Yes,
swim.
You like
swimming,
like me.
I like
it,
That heavy
cold softness...
That strange comfort
which makes me feel like
I'm close to something
which is the source of life.
Swimming.

Or...


Flying.

Come out.
It's meal time, Keeper
I looked all day, but it was no good
His things couldn't help you that much, their scent was too faint.
That was so but-
He disturbed the cobwebs too thoroughly. It was no use. He is cunning
He disturbed the cobweb.
He did something like that in another world.
Yes, not everybody can do it.
For most mages, it's impossible
It's not easy to do it in Ember, and you're talking about another world

Well if he was not a White Line, he could have risen higher in the system
He is powerful and he has many tricks up his sleeve
He's a difficult man to face
If he didn't run away to another world, if we keep looking for him, we'll find him someday
I'll join Shioram tomorrow.
You should do that, Yenta
...Do you think that it's lovely?
It's a life which you'll protect, Koon
Those young birds- and every other living breathing thing
Look around you.
All this would exist because of you.
Keeper is something like that.

You have to be responsible for life.

You have to protect them.

Chirp Chirp

Do you know how valuable this work is, and how heavy a responsibility it is?

Always remember, Koon.

Always.. your duty.

My friend.

You can fly away now.

I will protect you.

You and the world.

So- don't forget. You can't exist as an individual.

Until you die, you are the Keeper of this world... the protector of life.

Don't be shaken by your emotions, Koon.

You are not alone. Your real feelings could cause tragedy for not just you, but for many other people.

Try to kill your emotions

...

Do you understand? Your personal life isn't important, what is important is that the /mark/ is alive

You exist for the /mark/ That is what it means to be the Keeper.

.....

Calmly...with a cool head, Koon.

Kill your emotions.

Kill your emotions.

You are the Keeper.

You exist for the /mark/.

Ember-

The world ...

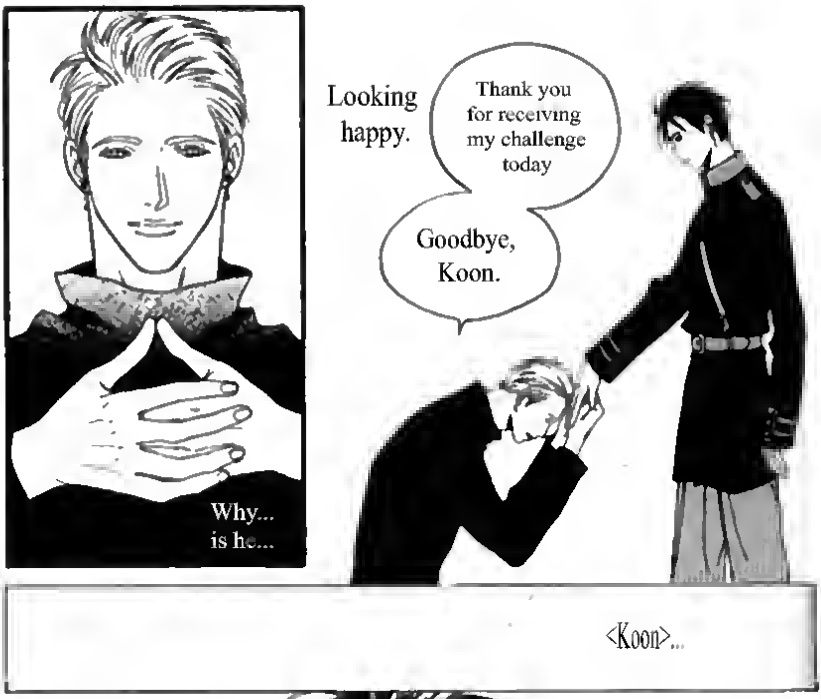
You have to maintain it.

We greet the new Keeper.
The person who has the honour of the /mark/,
Please maintain Ember until you die.
Keeper-
Keeper-
Keeper-

The new Keeper is pretty quiet.
Keepers are mostly calm and they don't talk much but I think he is quieter than the last Keeper.
But he never smiles... not once.
Well, he has the /mark/ safe with him and he's doing his duty as the leader, so that's enough.
Of course, that's true.
It isn't strange for a Keeper to be like that.
...Why don't we hire more White Line people?
That is- difficult, Keeper.
The side that the Keeper is from takes care of the important positions. That's a tradition needed for the leader to get along well with the people in the important seats.
Right now, White Line is trying to cause some trouble, so you don't have to support them.
It must be because of that guy who's the genius of his generation.
He has false hope and is full of himself.
Well, I can understand him.
I would feel the same in his situation.
Hahaha
.....
The young man from White Line.

I saw him sometimes ...from far away.
White hair...
It's an honour to meet you in person.
I want to challenge you to get the /mark/. Is that okay?
I saw him up close for the first time.
Slow ...low and soft voice.
Unfamiliar and calm eyes which see straight ahead.

And- power and skills beyond my expectations.
I give up.
I lose.
.....


Why... is he...
Looking happy.
Thank you for receiving my challenge today
Goodbye, Koon.
<Koon>...

I'm not alone.
I am the home of the /mark/.
Host.
The tool which maintains Ember.
Keeper.

My name was Koon- but nobody called me by that name.

I was a Keeper.

Only one person called me Koon after I became a Keeper.

No...

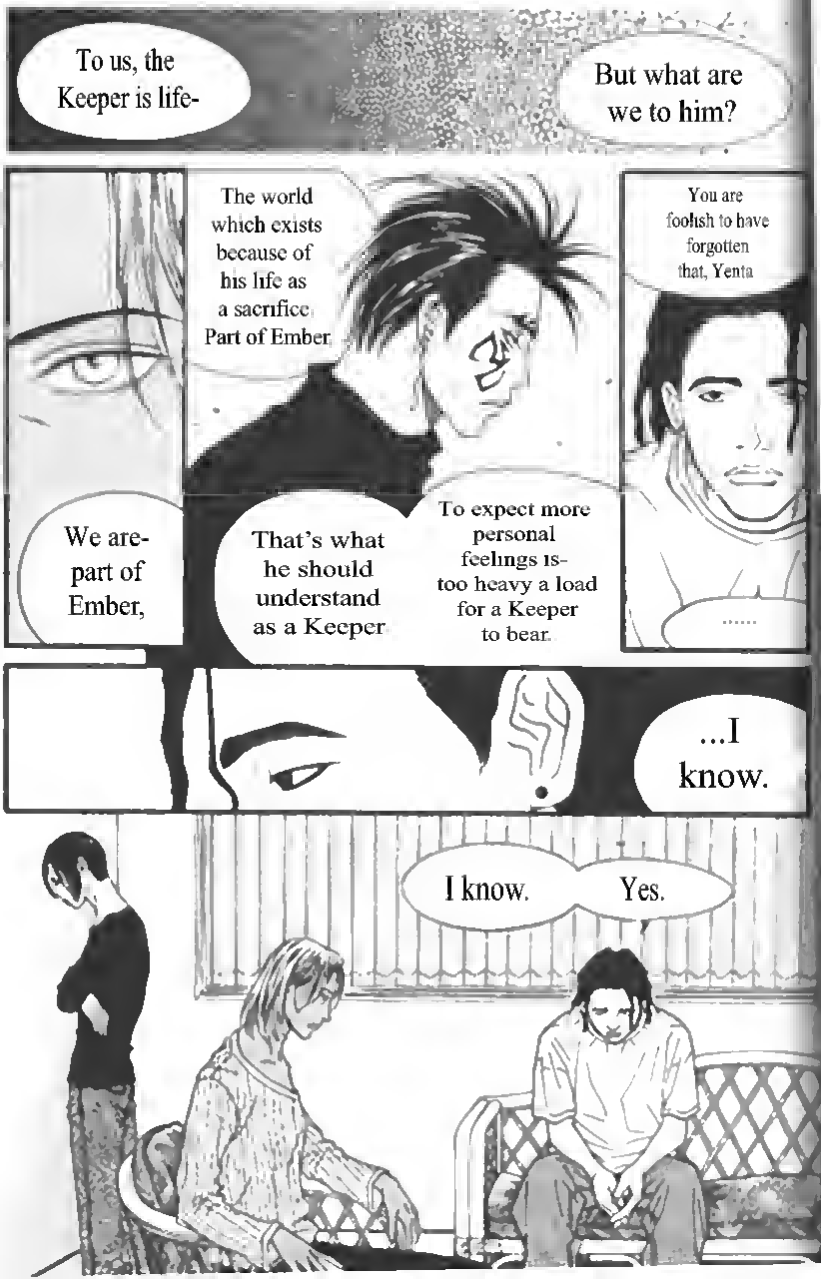
Maybe...

One more... person...

Koon-

.....
Warm...
Warm color
He didn't change, even if his memories are gone
He's always keeping things from us...
He decides everything on his own...
Don't say something stupid, Yenta.
He's... always the same, the Keeper is.

Keepers are like that, really. They're separated from us.
You know that, so why are you whining?
But- I get angry. When I see his expressionless face...
There must have been something, right?
He suddenly vanished and lost all his memories and he's a child- And Hisa is with him
Definitely a lot of things must have happened
But... he vanished without saying anything and he made us look for him
.....
That can't happen.
If he is a proper Keeper, he shouldn't have done all this
Shioram
He doesn't have the qualities of a Keeper
Shioram
Be careful when you talk
.....
...That's not it
What I'm angry about - what I want to say is -
So ...

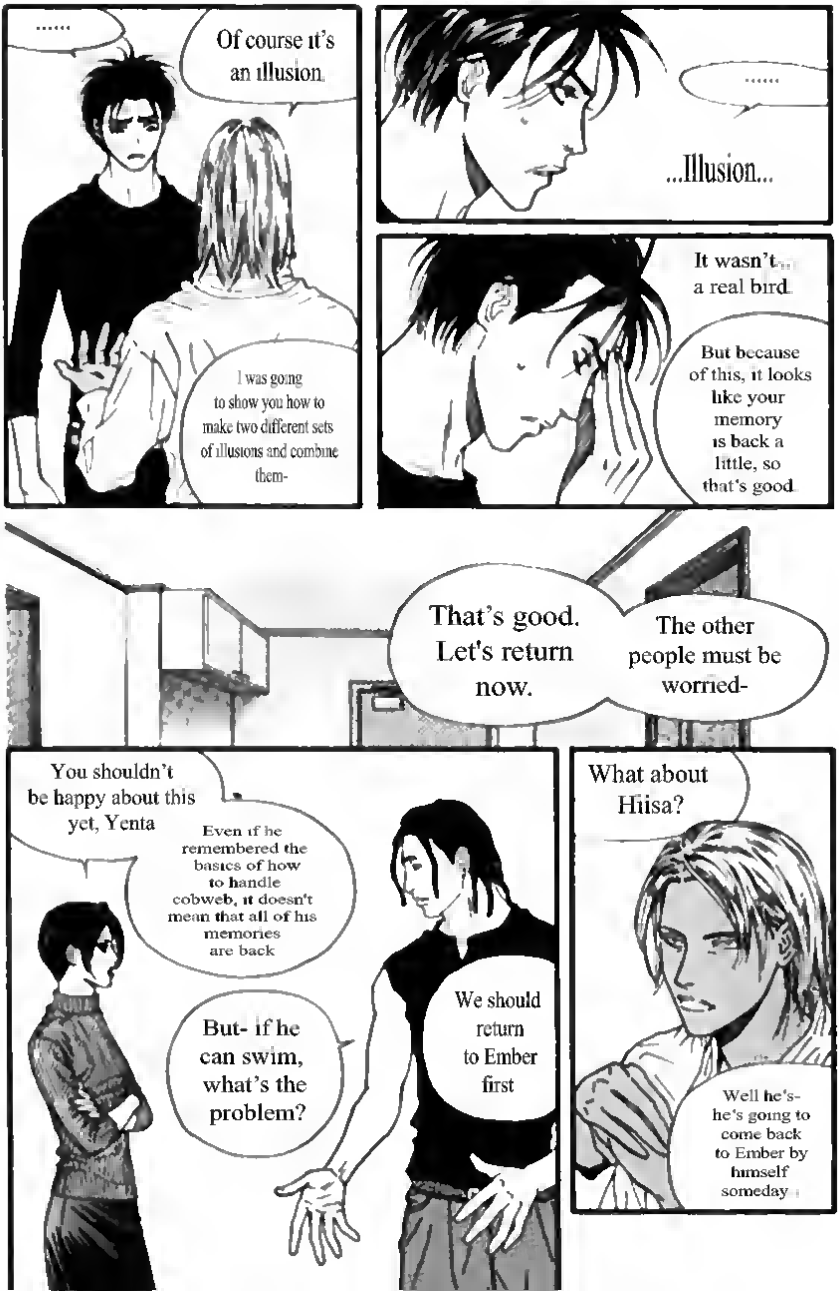

To us, the Keeper is life-
But what are we to him?
The world which exists because of his life as a sacrifice. Part of Ember.
You are foolish to have forgotten that, Yenta
We are- part of Ember,
That's what he should understand as a Keeper
To expect more personal feelings is- too heavy a load for a Keeper to bear.
.....
...I know.
I know.
Yes.

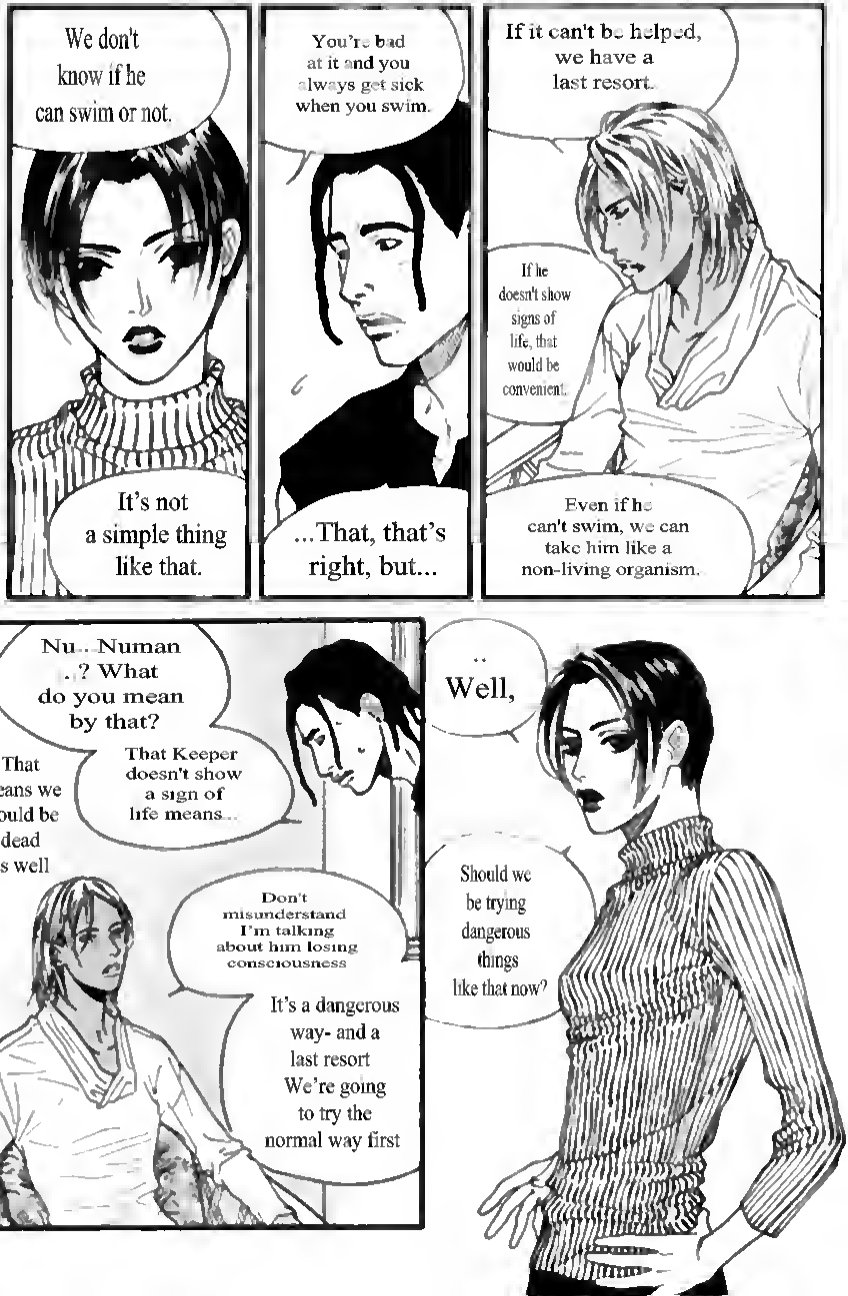
Then let's start with something simple first
Stare at the space between your front chest and stomach.
...Ah!
Yes. Can you see them?
At the end, pull the one which is closest to you.

Sfx: Fire
Sfx: Crackle
.....
!
You have done well.
How about it?
Can you remember it?
I don't know...
Not well.
This is the most simple of skills
For you, the leader of mages, it's not even child's play to handle some cobweb like this
All mages know how to handle many layers of cobweb
In your case, you could handle many layers of cobweb which could be hardly be seen because there were so many

.....
I did?
Really?
As much cobweb as you can handle-
It needs more skill and more power
You can do something more obvious after that
For example-
See,
.....
This looks like a normal bird-
Sfx: Splash

...What are you doing?
Were you going to kill the bird by setting it on fire?
...Keeper.
You... remember.
You just handled-cobweb.
?!


.....
Of course it's an illusion.
I was going to show you how to make two different sets of illusions and combine them-
.....
...Illusion...
It wasn't... a real bird.
But because of this, it looks like your memory is back a little, so that's good.
That's good. Let's return now.
The other people must be worried-
You shouldn't be happy about this yet, Yenta
Even if he remembered the basics of how to handle cobweb, it doesn't mean that all of his memories are back
But- if he can swim, what's the problem?
We should return to Ember first
What about Hiisa?
Well he's- he's going to come back to Ember by himself someday.


We don't know if he can swim or not.
It's not a simple thing like that.
You're bad at it and you always get sick when you swim.
...That, that's right, but...
If it can't be helped, we have a last resort.
If he doesn't show signs of life, that would be convenient.
Even if he can't swim, we can take him like a non-living organism.
Nu...Numan ..? What do you mean by that?
That means we would be dead as well
That Keeper doesn't show a sign of life means...
Don't misunderstand I'm talking about him losing consciousness
It's a dangerous way- and a last resort We're going to try the normal way first
.. Well,
Should we be trying dangerous things like that now?

Shio-ram,
Do you not like it?
Yes, I don't like it at all.
What's on your mind?
You know.
More than anything-
The /mark/...
It's not showing up at all.
He's trying to remember his memories and the /mark/ will appear when he finds them
We should go back to Ember and wait there.
...It is worrisome.
.....

...Do you think she's free?

Are you seduced by her wings?

Let's try to return.
Get ready.
...What was that talk?
Whose voice was that?
Who ...
Said that she's not free?

...What about the Keeper?
He failed.
Struggle
We should ...wait a little more
Struggle
...If it was a success, he wouldn't be late like this.
We should go back.

Keeper,
Are you okay?
Ah...it's okay.
Just ... a little cold.
I can't stop... trembling.
Did it not work?
I slipped.
I couldn't ride the cobweb safely.

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